

PERSHING ISSUES FIRST OFFICIAL WAR REPORT

ALL THE NEWS
THAT'S WORTH
PRINTING

REPUBLICAN FARMER.

ALL THE NEWS
THAT'S WORTH
PRINTING

ESTABLISHED A. D. 1790—VOL. CXXVI

BRIDGEPORT, CONN., FRIDAY, MAY 17, 1918

NEW SERIES—VOL. CXXVI—NO. 5611

SINK AUSTRIAN DREADNAUGHT

LITTLE FIGHTING REPORTED IN FLANDERS AND PICARDY

INCREASED ARTILLERY FIRE OF FOE REPLIED TO BY AMERICAN GUNS

FIRST COMMUNICATION REPORTS THE
DOWNING BY U. S. AVIATORS OF 3
GERMAN AEROPLANES—GUNFIRE
IN TOUL AND LORRAINE HOT.

With the American Army in France, Wednesday, May 15 — (By the Associated Press) — The first American official communication issued since the American troops entered the fighting line on a permanent basis was issued tonight. It reports increased artillery activity northwest of Toul and Lorraine, as well as the destruction of three German machines by two American aviators.

The statement reads: "Six p. m., Headquarters American Expeditionary Forces—Northwest of Toul and in Lorraine there was a marked increase in artillery activity on both sides. "Today our aviators brought down three German machines. There is nothing else of importance to report."

RAPID INCREASE IN WAR EXPENSES

Washington, May 16—Rapid increase in war expenses for the army and navy and for the ship building program was shown today by a treasury report covering March expenditures of \$1,229,000,000. The government spent \$570,000,000 for the military establishment in March; \$47,000,000 more than in the month preceding; the navy establishment cost \$143,000,000 as compared with \$92,000,000; and the shipping board spent \$116,000,000, against \$58,000,000.

GERMANY DENIES STATE OF WAR WITH URUGUAY

INFORMS SOUTH AMERICAN COUNTRY SO IN RESPONSE
TO REQUEST FOR DEFINITION OF RELATIONS—
URUGUAYAN MISSION HELD UP.

Montevideo, Uruguay, May 16—The German government has informed Uruguay, in response to the request for a definition of relations that it does not consider that a state of war exists.

A German submarine recently held up a steamer on which a mission from Uruguay was travelling to France and detained the mission. The commander of the submarine explained his action by saying Germany considered that a state of war existed with Uruguay. An inquiry was addressed to Germany by Uruguay with the statement that if Germany considered herself at war with Uruguay the Uruguayan government would declare war. Subsequently the Uruguayan mission was permitted to proceed to France.

The following official note was issued here today: "When the Uruguayan military mission was detained by a German submarine the commander of the submarine justified his arbitrary action by the state of war with Uruguay in which he said Germany had found itself and said that he was acting in accord with instructions from the admiralty, which he exhibited. Our foreign office demanded that Germany state whether the submarine commander had acted in accord with instructions from the government in Berlin, adding that in case a negative reply should be given our military representatives should be relieved of their engagement. (This evidently refers to pledges which the members of the Uruguayan mission were compelled to give before being permitted to proceed.) "Several days later the Spanish government made an offer of mediation in regard to the promise made

BRIDGEPORTERS RECOMMENDED TO ATTEND SCHOOL

Ayer, Mass., May 16—Six hundred soldiers at Camp Devens have been recommended to attend the 4th Officers Training Camp, starting here today. With 50 men who attended the last camp and an unknown number of college graduates, the attendance at this new camp will run up toward 1,000 and should turn out more than 700 second lieutenants next August.

Following are some of the names and addresses furnished by headquarters: William F. Hayes, sergt., Waterbury; James H. Horsley, sergt., Waterbury; Kenneth Coleburn, sergt., Norwalk; James J. Moore, sergt., Stonington; Leroy S. Hawkins, supply sergt., Bridgeport; Tony Dvilek, sergt., Waterbury; Earl L. Sawyer, corporal, Bridgeport; Augustus L. Wells, private, Waterbury; Nelson B. Mead, Jr., private, Norwich; Ellis Taylor, private, Norwich; Carl E. Lyons, private, Norwich; Anthony McKenna, sergt., Willimantic; Albert C. Dow, sergt., Bridgeport; Simon Donahue, wagoner, Waterbury; Edward V. Stebbins, sergt., Waterbury; Alfred W. Seider, corporal, Waterbury; Francis J. Foster, corporal, Danbury; Wm. L. Galligan, corporal, Waterbury; James C. Howie, corporal, Middletown; Wilfred H. Wright, corporal, Bridgeport; Charles C. Hall, sergt., Meriden; Andrew H. Reilly, corporal, Hartford; Francis L. Bacon, sergt., Meriden.

Washington, May 16—Charles A. Otis, president of the Cleveland Chamber of Commerce, was appointed by the war industry board today to make a survey of the industrial resources of the country.

MILAN-BRESCIA INVASION WILL BE TRIED NEXT

London, May 16—via Ottawa—An Austrian blow against Italy may be expected at an early date in the opinion of well informed observers here. The enemy project, it is believed generally, comprises a great invasion with Milan and Brescia as the chief objectives in a scheme to smash the Italian army. Since the retreat last October the Italian strategic plan has been recast and the main defensive position are now held solidly, but it is believed that the Austrians will strike west of the Brenta.

EMP. CHARLES' PROPOSALS UP FOR DISCUSSION

Whole Topic of His Letters
Talked Over in House of
Commons Today.

BALFOUR ASKED ABOUT MATTER

U. S. and Great Britain
Must Confide in One An-
other, Says Secretary.

London, May 16—Foreign Secretary Balfour was asked in the House of Commons today whether Prince Sixtus of Bourbon, to whom Emperor Charles of Austria addressed the letters last year in which peace was offered to France, paid two visits to England in connection with the peace proposals and whether he was in communication on this subject with Premier Lloyd-George. The question was brought up by Robert Outwaite, Liberal member of the House of Commons for Hanley. Mr. Balfour replied that the subject was not one that could be dealt with by question and answer.

The whole topic of Emperor Charles' proposals was discussed today in the House of Commons on the initiative of the pacifists and advocates of peace by negotiation.

In response to questions Mr. Balfour said that Emperor Charles wrote a letter to a relative (Prince Sixtus is a brother-in-law of the emperor) and that it was conveyed by this relative to the president and premier of France under the seal of the strictest secrecy. No permission was given to communicate the letter to any one except the sovereign and the premier of this country. (This answers the question which has been raised as to why the emperor's proposals were not communicated to President Wilson.) Mr. Balfour said he had no secrets from President Wilson. Every thought he had on the war or in regard to questions of diplomacy connected with the war was open to the president.

The foreign secretary said he did not think it would be possible for the United States and Great Britain to carry on the great work with which they were engaged or to deal with the complicated day to day problems without complete confidence. So far as he was concerned, complete confidence would always be given. There was no one more desirous than the British government he continued, that the war should be brought to an honorable termination. If any method could be shown the government whereby that would be accomplished it would of course be accepted. He added, however, that no effort at conversations which had been made by the Central powers had ever been made in the interests of fair and honorable peace; to the contrary, they had been put forward in order to divide the Allies.

WEEKLY REPORT NOW ISSUED OF U. S. ACTIVITIES

Paris, May 16.—The first American communiqué was hailed with delight by this morning's Paris newspapers. "For the first time," says the Matin, "the Americans, who hitherto have contented themselves with issuing a weekly statement of the operations of their troops, furnish a communiqué at the same time as the other Allies. The fact is noteworthy as a fresh manifestation of the unity of the leadership on our front."

FOE FAILS TO RENEW ATTACKS

Abandon Effort to Take
Hill 44 From the
French Forces.

ITALY STILL QUIET

Heavy Barrage Laid on
U. S. Lines But No
Infantry Action.

Local fighting has died down again in Flanders and Picardy and only the guns are busy. The artillery fire continues all along these fronts, as well as on the Arras front and is most violent north of Kemmel and north and south of the Somme from Albert to the Avre.

These sectors have been the scenes of all the recent fighting and they probably will see the strongest enemy efforts whenever the Germans believe the time is opportune to strike anew. In Flanders the Germans have been disappointed in their attempt to gain hill 44, as the French not only drove them from the high ground but also penetrated the enemy positions.

In Picardy the Germans have not renewed their counter attacks to drive the French from the wooded terrain captured near Hallies. German and French artillery fire continues heavy north of the Avre. The enemy bombardment of the French lines here has been most intense for the last two weeks, but the Germans have attempted no attacks except to react against successful French local gains. The Germans put down a heavy barrage on the American lines northwest of Toul on Wednesday but no infantry attack resulted. Increased artillery activity is noted on the Lorraine sector.

As on the western front, the lull in Italy remains unbroken, but with expectations that as in France, heavy fighting will break out soon. Observers in London believe the heralded Austrian blow will be against the Italian lines from the Sclavic Pass to Monte Grappa, just east of the Brenta, in the hope of breaking through the Italian defense and reaching Brescia and Milan. Rome reports lively artillery and patrol engagements along the mountain front and the dispersal of enemy troops at two points by Italian batteries.

Germany's ambitions as regards Austria-Hungary's place in the Mittel-Europa plan, German newspapers indicate, were realized in the convention agreed on by the two emperors at their meeting. The agreement which is not yet signed, calls for an alliance for 25 years with closer economic relations and more severe military obligations. Vienna is reported to look with apprehension on the probability that the Austro-Hungarian army will be Prussianized, and believes such a step more important than any other feature of the new alliance.

5 CONNECTICUT BOYS REPORTED ON LATEST LIST

Washington, May 16—The casualty list today contained 91 names, divided as follows:

Killed in action, 8; died of wounds, 4; died of accident, 1; died of disease, 4; died of other causes, 1; wounded severely, 4; wounded slightly, 55; missing in action, 14. Officers named include Lieut. Karl O. Rosequist, Evanston, Ill., died of wounds, and Lieut. Charles W. Choitman, Waterbury, Conn., died of wounds. Lieut. J. N. Jackson, McDowell, N. J., missing in action.

The following Connecticut boys are listed among the casualties: Missing in action—Edwin J. Barnes, West Haven; Mechanic Augustus H. Chapman, Colchester; Adellard Barbeau, Danielson; Paul A. Petersen, Middletown; Howard A. Webb, 9 Jackson street, Ansonia.

RECEIVE AMERICANS.

London, May 16—The American labor delegation was received by King George at Buckingham palace today. The visit lasted an hour.

PLAN TO CARE FOR 5,000,000 U. S. FIGHTERS

London, May 16—American preparations on the western front are amazing in their immensity and plans are making to care for 5,000,000 American troops, Harry E. V. Brittain, secretary of the English branch of the Pilgrims' club, told the royal colonial institute last night. If the Germans do not give in, he added, the number of American troops will be increased to any amount necessary.

The United States, asserted Miss Higgins, American labor delegate, has answered the call of blood.

LIGHT ITALIAN SHIPS INVADE PORT OF POLA SINKING BIG FIGHTER

LARGEST AND MOST MODERN SHIP OF
AUSTRIA'S FLEET, A 20,000 TON VESSEL,
FALLS VICTIM OF ITALIANS'
DARING SEAMANSHIP.

700 WOMEN AND MEN IN DANCE HALL RIOT

SAY BRIDGEPORT ROUGHS STARTED TROUBLE
WHICH RESULTED IN GIRLS AND YOUNG
MEN FIGHTING—WINDOWS SMASHED.

Seven hundred men and women battled, fainted and tore one another's hair in the wild melee which started about eleven o'clock last night at Le Chateau, a dance hall on the Housatonic River bank, in the town of Milford.

Several men were thrown through the windows, carrying glass and frames with them, while pandemonium broke loose and could be heard for many blocks. Officer Clarence Douglas, the lone representative of civic authority on duty, tried to restore order, but he was seized by four men who disarmed and held him captive while the battle raged.

Doors were forced open by the panic-stricken mob when someone switched the lights out and the 700 shouting, yelling, fighting, and intoxicated dancers rushed to the street. As soon as he was liberated Officer Douglas made his way to police headquarters and reported the riot to his chief.

When the Milford police headquarters was called up today they said that the affair was of serious proportions and that the trouble was caused by a large gang of "Bridgeport rough-necks" who nightly travel to Devon to raise a disturbance.

It was also said a large quantity of liquor was brought into the dance hall and it was not until the fire water began to work that things began to get rough. A witness of the affair said that one man called another's girl a "big bum" and in return was hurled through one of the windows. In a second the 700 dancers had taken sides and a general engagement was on.

Shock troops, both male and female mixed in battle royal style until it would have taken a regiment of policemen to club them into submission. Officer Douglas, in trying to reach the ringleaders, was tossed about by the fighting, struggling mass as though he was a cork on the ocean. When he was about to summon help four men seized him and removing his weapons held him while infuriated and intoxicated men and women tore at one another's throats.

The dance hall is conducted by A. P. Thomas, and it is hinted by the Milford authorities there will be drastic action taken against him for the manner in which the place has been conducted. Another thing that is being urged is to have at least half a dozen policemen, some of them in plain clothes, at each and every one of the dances given in Le Chateau.

Jury Awards Beers Damages of \$785

Harold S. Beers of Westport was awarded \$785 damages by a jury in the Superior court yesterday in an action against Clarence B. Andrews of Easton in which he claimed \$20,000. Beers was riding a motorcycle in North Haven August 15 last, and was struck by Andrews' automobile.

After a stirring plea for a fighting army of 5,000,000 men Mr. Taft said: "We should set our faces stern and unbending toward one end—war. Let us have peace, but let us have war that we may have peace. To sound the trumpet, stern implacable war to the end, this convention was called."

Mr. Taft presided. Men of national prominence to the number of 4,000 are in attendance. They include educators, business men and statesmen. "No one in the wildest flight of his imagination now can think of undefeated Germany yielding either proper indemnity to Belgium or justice to Alsace-Lorraine," Mr. Taft said. "Nor will the unconquered German ruling class consent to lift the German paw from prostrate Russia, or give over to decent rule the blood stained Christian provinces of Turkey. If the wrongs of the oppressed are not right-

Rome, May 16—An Austrian battleship was torpedoed by Italian naval forces in Pola harbor early Tuesday morning, it was officially announced today.

The battleship was of the Viribus type (20,000 ton vessels). The Italian force worked its way into the Austrian naval base by dodging the patrol boats and searchlights of the defenders.

While the naval operation was progressing an Italian seaplane force engaged Austrian battle planes above Pola. Two of the Austrians were brought down and several others were compelled to descend out of control. The Italian machines all returned safely.

The text of the official announcement reads: "Italian naval units, avoiding patrol boats and searchlights succeeded in entering Pola harbor early on Tuesday and in torpedoing an Austrian battleship of the Viribus Unitis type. "Simultaneously Italian seaplane squadrons attacked Austrian battle planes over Pola, brought down two and forced several others out of control. The Italian machines all returned safely to their bases."

There are four Austrian battleships of the Viribus Unitis class, which comprised the largest and most modern fighting vessels completed for the Austrian navy up to the time the European war began. The other ships of the class are the Tagethof, the Prinz Eugen and the Szent Ivan. The named ship was completed in October, 1912, and the others at intervals between then and the beginning of the war, with the exception of the Szent Ivan, which was not finished until 1915.

Each battleship of the class displaces 20,000 tons, is 525 feet long over all, 89 feet beam and 23 feet draught. Their armament comprises 12 12-inch and 12 9.9 inch guns in the main battery, with 18 11-pounders and various smaller guns. The complement of the battleships ranged from 962 to 988 men. All are heavily armored, and are classed as dreadnaughts. The Viribus Unitis developed a speed of 20.9 knots on her trial trip.

TAFT DEMANDS WAR TO FINISH WITH GERMANY

FORMER PRESIDENT MAKES STIRRING PLEA TO LEAGUE
TO ENFORCE PEACE FOR AN ARMY OF
5,000,000 MEN.

Philadelphia, May 16—"War to the death" demanded former President Taft in his keynote speech at the opening session today of the Win the War convention of the League to Enforce Peace.

After a stirring plea for a fighting army of 5,000,000 men Mr. Taft said: "We should set our faces stern and unbending toward one end—war. Let us have peace, but let us have war that we may have peace. To sound the trumpet, stern implacable war to the end, this convention was called."

Mr. Taft presided. Men of national prominence to the number of 4,000 are in attendance. They include educators, business men and statesmen. "No one in the wildest flight of his imagination now can think of undefeated Germany yielding either proper indemnity to Belgium or justice to Alsace-Lorraine," Mr. Taft said. "Nor will the unconquered German ruling class consent to lift the German paw from prostrate Russia, or give over to decent rule the blood stained Christian provinces of Turkey. If the wrongs of the oppressed are not right-